GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4671
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF THAR DESERT IN RAJASTHAN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan for the next plan period for development of Thar desert area of Rajasthan,especially Banner, Jaisahner, Jalore areas which are most backward;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the fissiparous activities are likely to be brought under control which are spreading due to prevailing economic and social disparities in the border region, especially due to mounting unemployment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN TIIE MINIS1RY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ANNASAHEB M.K.PATIL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) An area development programme, namely, Desert Development Programme (DDP) is already under implementation in 40 districts of 7 States, including Barmer, Jaisamer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan. The Programme aims at controlling desertification by regeneration of depleted natural resource base. Its objectives, inter alia, are (a) promotion of the overall economic development and improving the socioeconomic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas; (b) mitigating the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions such as drought and desertification on crops, human and livestock population for their overall improvement; and (c) employment generation, poverty alleviation, community empowerement and development of human and other economic resources of the watershed area.

This Programme will continue to be implemented during the Tenth Plan. A sum of Rs. 185.00 crores has been allocated during the first year of the Tenth Plan. The budget allocation will be utilized for meeting the requirement of ongoing watershed and special projects and sanction of new projects under the Desert Development Programme.